

Memorandum

Date : September 21, 1995

To : Lester Snow

SEP 25 1995

Stein Buer, Chief *smB*
North Delta Management
Division of Planning

From : Department of Water Resources

Subject: Coordination between Interim North Delta and CALFED Bay-Delta Programs

This is to follow up on our September 18 meeting in which we discussed coordination between the Interim North Delta Program and the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. As I indicated in the meeting, I believe that the INDP is providing valuable support to the long-term solution-finding process through our land acquisition activities and technical studies. The attached Annual Status Report for FY 94-95 provides a good summary of our program activities, many of which will continue into FY 95-96.

The following notes will serve to bring the Annual Status Report up to date. I have listed the items in the same order as they are found in the Annual Status Report.

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Studies

This work is continuing under the direction of DFG. Jones and Stokes Associates has been requested to participate on the HEP team, and is expected to do much of the analysis. Anticipated completion date is March 1996.

Biological Assessment

A final draft has been submitted to DWR by the contractor, Miriam Green Associates. The assessment does not include the Hood diversion components due to contractual limitations. These will be completed by Jones and Stokes Associates in the current fiscal year.

Flood Analysis

Flood modeling runs for the dredging-only alternative have been completed. All the completed modeling runs will be evaluated, and the flood impacts assessment will be updated.

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Lester Snow
September 21, 1995
Page Two

SWP and Delta Modeling

All scheduled modeling runs have been completed. These runs provide the basis for various impact analyses, including SWP yield, water quality, hydrodynamics, fisheries, and other categories. The Delta modeling runs are being duplicated for distribution to technical staff.

Fisheries

Current plans call for continuation of work on shallow water impacts modeling, screened diversion impacts modeling, and updating of general fisheries assessments. In the past, ESO and DFG staffs have performed this work.

Jurisdictional Wetlands Delineation

All scheduled work has been completed. The assessment does not include the Hood diversion components. These will be completed by JSA in the current fiscal year.

Dredged Materials Environmental Study

All scheduled work has been completed for the Tier 1 evaluation. DWR has not received any feedback from the RWQCB on the reports documenting this work. We are assuming, based upon our own assessment of the data compiled to date, that there will not be a need for a Tier 2 program. Staff has been responding to a RWQCB initiative to create a General Order Permit process, which should help expedite small dredging jobs in the Delta.

Cultural Resources Assessment

No activity is planned for the current FY.

Recreation Studies

The recreation study for the INDP is still incomplete. Central District staff has committed to completing this report by October 1995.

Study Area Mapping

One-foot contour mapping has been completed. The maps are now being used in technical evaluations. GIS mapping of the study area is nearly complete for habitat types. Completed

Lester Snow
September 21, 1995
Page Three

layers include archaeology, jurisdictional wetlands, land use, and base layers. With assistance from UC Berkeley staff, the GIS system will be used to evaluate alternative impacts to these resources.

Design Studies

A technical report is being prepared to document engineering data compiled for the various INDP components. Engineering analyses of the Hood diversion component are expected to continue. Both two-dimensional mathematical modeling and physical scale modeling efforts have been undertaken to determine the hydraulic feasibility of a Hood diversion.

Seepage Monitoring

Monitoring will continue through the FY. Well maintenance will be conducted as required.

Sedimentation and Scour Monitoring

Monitoring will be conducted twice in the FY.

Aerial Photography

None is planned for the FY.

Interagency Coordination Meetings and Public Review

Monthly meetings were conducted in July and August 1995. In July DWR announced that an INDP EIR/EIS would only be circulated after the relationship between the INDP and the CALFED Bay-Delta program was worked out to the satisfaction of all stakeholders. Federal participation was minimal in the August meeting (only USBR staff showed up as an observer). A meeting is scheduled for October 5, 1995. No additional meetings have been scheduled at this time.

INDP staff is continuing development of an Internet home page, as this is expected to serve as an efficient way to make technical data available to stakeholders, the public, and program participants.

Lester Snow
September 21, 1995
Page Four

Report Preparation and Responses to Comments

Work on the DEIR/EIS has been halted. However, supporting technical studies described in the status report are being completed and will be reported in technical memoranda.

Borrow Materials, Mitigation, and Enhancement Planning

Contouring of a portion of the Grizzly Slough site is expected to begin in late September, with planting to follow later in the fall. Negotiations are continuing with The Nature Conservancy cooperators for inclusion of this parcel in the Cosumnes River Preserve.

Land Acquisition to Protect Future Planning Flexibility

Current evaluation efforts are focused on the 4.5-acre Stillwater Orchards property.

Land Management and Interagency Coordination Activities

Management recently approved a plan proposed by the East Delta Land Management Committee to inventory and clean up monitoring wells left over from the original Peripheral Canal project. The Committee is also developing management recommendations for DWR's east Delta properties.

USFWS Refuge Coordination

The USFWS has recently recommended that the Stone Lakes Drainage Channel be cleared of water hyacinths to improve tidal mixing and water quality in North Stone Lake. DWR participation has been requested. DWR is currently evaluating the request. This may provide DWR with an opportunity to conduct resource mapping for impact analyses in an area that has previously been inaccessible, while at the same time building on a cooperative relationship with the USFWS.

Fisheries Mitigation and Enhancement Activities

Current efforts are focused on developing a feasibility cost-sharing agreement with the Corps for the Sacramento River Fish Migration Study, which could lead to significant additional federal support for fisheries restoration. The Department has developed a proposed plan of action for a test fish ladder to be installed at the upstream end of the Sacramento River Deep Water

Lester Snow
September 21, 1995
Page Five

Ship Channel. This ladder would most likely be operated in FY 96-97.

Evaluations of cylindrical screens and other fish protective measures are continuing.

Permits Process

Jim Monroe, Corps Regulatory contact for the INDP, has stated that the permit application for the program is now getting outdated because of the elapsed time since the application was filed, because the program alternatives have evolved as a result of comments and changes in the Delta, and because the relationship between the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the INDP is unclear. Department staff has recommended that the application be kept active.

Attachment

cc: Kathlin Johnson
Steve Yaeger
Kathy Kelly
Mike Ford